

Metasyrphus nielseni D. & L. (Dipt.: Syrphidae)
in the British Isles

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With the second part of the revision of European species of *Metasyrphus* by Dusek and Laska now published (see Dusek and Laska, 1976) it is possible to establish which *Metasyrphus* species occur in the British Isles. As of now, it would appear that the only name change involving known British Isles species concerns *Syrphus arcuatus* sensu Coe (1953). Dusek and Laska (*l.c.*) demonstrate that this is a hitherto unrecognised species, which they have named *Metasyrphus nielseni*. According to their paper, the synonymy of this species is: —

Metasyrphus nielseni D. & L., 1976.

Syrphus arcuatus: Collin, 1931; Coe, 1953; nec *Scaeva arcuata* Fal., 1817.

Posthosyrphus punctifer: Hipa, 1968; nec *Syrphus punctifer* Frey in Kanervo, 1934.

This species is then the *Metasyrphus* "sp. indet." of Pt. 5 of the 2nd edition of Kloet and Hincks (1976). *M. nielseni* is known at present from the Scottish Highlands, Scandinavia (except Denmark), as far as the extreme western edge of the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Austria and N. Italy. My own experience of the species would suggest that it is in Scotland largely confined to areas of old caledonian pine forest (*Pinus sylvestris* v. *caledonicus*). However, I have found it alongside a mature stand of planted *P. sylvestris* (a Forestry Commission enclosure) some way from any natural pine woods, so *M. nielseni* may now be extending its range somewhat in Scotland. If, as seems likely, Scottish populations of *M. nielseni* are associated with *P. sylvestris*, any dramatic extension of the range of this hover-fly in the British Isles would not seem likely, seeing that relatively little of this pine species is planted by the Forestry Commission. But Dusek and Laska (*l.c.*) do suggest that other pine species perhaps support *M. nielseni* in continental Europe. At present *M. nielseni* is known from the counties of Perth and Inverness. To these I can add Aberdeen: ♂, No. 2194 (Ballachlaggan, 22nd June, 1974, coll. M.C.D.S.; ♀, No. 4794 (Glen Tanar), 21st June, 1974, coll. M.C.D.S. I have found the species at flowers of: *Galium* sp(p), *Helianthemum nummulinum* and *Potentilla erecta*, generally in rather open, park-like pine woodland.

The second part of Dusek and Laska's revision (*l.c.*) contains a most useful key to European *Metasyrphus* species and it perhaps should be mentioned that some of the *Metasyrphus* species as yet unrecorded in the British Isles *could* be present here, to judge from their known distribution. Further, various of the *Metasyrphus* involved are very similar in appearance to known British Isles species.

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References

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- Dusek, J. and Laska, P., 1973. Descriptions of five new European species of the genus *Metasyrphus* (Dipt., Syrphidae), with notes on variation within the species. *Acta ent. bohemoslov.*, 70: 415-429.
- Dusek, J. and Laska, P., 1976. European species of *Metasyrphus*: key, descriptions and notes (Dipt., Syrphidae). *Acta ent. bohemoslov.*, 73: 263-282.
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A CAMBERWELL BEAUTY AFTER HIBERNATION IN WORCESTERSHIRE. — On 3rd April, 1977 a Camberwell Beauty was seen on the Upton Warren Nature Reserve, three miles S.W. of Bromsgrove, by Mr. A. F. Jacobs, the Warden of the Reserve. It was flying along a ditch adjacent to a row of willows. I think this is the first occasion this century that the species has been seen in Worcestershire after hibernation. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Malvern, Worcs., WR14 3JU.

THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY IN WARWICKSHIRE IN APRIL 1977. — One was seen in the garden here on 4th April (Map ref. SP 385897). It alighted on a window sill for about a minute and an excellent close view of the characteristics was obtained. — E. A. HOARE, M.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.H., 28 Bulkington Lane, Nuneaton.

THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY IN WESTMORLAND IN APRIL 1977. — One was seen at noon on 15th April basking in the sun below Nab Scar, Rydal Water, by Mr. Roger Beeby of 168 Knighton Church Road, Leicester. — J. HEATH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon.